



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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SIMMONS ANNOUNCES PORT OF NEW LONDON NOW ELIGIBLE FOR PORT SECURITY FUNDING

At Simmons' Urging, Port Now Among 100 "Most Critical Seaports"

NORWICH (CT) – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has added the Port of New London to the list of U.S. ports eligible to receive federal monies under its Port Security Grant (PSG) Program. As a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, Simmons has long advocated adding New London to the list of seaports eligible for federal port security grant funding.

"Many of our nation's most critical assets surround the Port of New London," Simmons said. "Subbase New London, Electric Boat, Pfizer, two operational nuclear power plants, the Coast Guard Academy, and transportation facilities such as Amtrak and I-95 make New London one of the nation's most security-sensitive areas. Today the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has rightfully recognized the importance of beefing up security at the Port of New London."

The PGS program will provide more than \$168 million in port security grants to create sustainable, risk-based efforts for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. The Port of New London now joins the nation's 100 most critical seaports eligible to participate in the port grant program – including the ports of Bridgeport and New Haven. From 2002 to 2005, DHS provided more than \$706 million through the PGS program.

The Port of New London was deemed eligible by the U.S. Coast Guard who developed the Port Criticality List using commercial, demographic and geographic data from various sources. Factors such as cargo and passenger volume, the presence of critical infrastructure and key assets, and strategic importance were among the criteria utilized in the determination.

Simmons concluded, "For years, I have pushed to include the Port of New London among our nation's most critical seaports. I am pleased that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has concurred and added New London to the list of critical seaports. I look forward to working with Gov. Rell and state homeland security officials to ensure all of Connecticut's ports get the federal security assistance they rightfully deserve."

Final award decisions for the Port Security Grant program will be made in September 2006.

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